

Jesus in what he said and did, and in what happened to him; and to this ministry God bore "witness both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will." Peter began the ministry on the day of Pentecost. Converts were made to Jesus and his cause, first among the Jews, and then among the Gentiles; these converts were organized and associated together as churches; and from that day to this, for now more than eighteen centuries, the work of making Jesus and his cause known to the children of men has been going forward in this world. Men, by millions and hundreds of millions, have identified themselves with him. His name meant more to their thoughts, and more to their hopes, than any other name ever pronounced.

What this Jesus is in his nature as explained in the Bible, and what he came into this world to do, and did, and what he is now doing in heaven for this world, as explained in the same Bible, constitute the explanation of his wonderful power over human thought and feeling. The whole explanation centers in him and his work. The result is not greater than the cause. Jesus was on earth God manifested in the flesh, and, dying in the flesh, he was, and is, the Saviour of sinners, having come into this world, as he expressly says, to save that which was lost. He still sustains this relation to men, and will do so to the end of time. He is in heaven pursuing the same work that brought him to earth. Such a being as the Bible Jesus is explained to be, can never cease to be of the profoundest interest to mankind. He can never become obsolete. All men need his service. He can do for them what they cannot do for themselves and what no one else can do for them. He can put them on good terms with God and God on good terms with them.

A minister who had worked for ten years in the slums of one of our large cities was telling something of his experiences and of the results in the lives of those whom they were trying to lift. It had been up hill work with plenty of discouragement for small souls; but small souls were not working there, and the men and women who held the field had boundless trust in God and faith in humanity. One simple sentence of the speaker's held the secret of the success of that mission:—

"We love them into the kingdom, and if any fall back into the old life, as some do, why, we begin all over again."

Love and patience—the old, old conquerors—as old as God's love for man! Yet how quickly we lose heart in our poor efforts! How long are we willing to give if no gratitude is shown? How long are we willing to labor if the task must be done over and over and over? It is not enough to do—one must keep on doing. Blessings a thousand times upon the strong and brave-hearted workers who are willing to "begin all over again."

Christian Life

Even Me

I know in life I shall not hear
The voice which Mary heard;
Thou sometimes I have longed with tears
To catch a whispered word.
But, Lord, I know the debt of sin is paid
And, 'neath me, everlasting arms are laid.

I know that I can never kneel
Repentant at thy feet;
To break, for thee, the treasured box
Of perfumes rare and sweet.
I would bedew thy feet with tears and rest—
But teach me, Lord, to serve—thou knowest best.

I know I cannot grasp the hand
That seems so near to guide;
Nor would I, doubting, reach my own
To touch thy wounded side;
For thou dost count all blessed—even me—
Who, seeing not, have yet believed on thee.

—Annie Sherwood Hawks, in *Ram's Horn*.

Morality vs. Spirituality

Exchange.

Between these two kinds of life there is as great a gap as there is between a life held in subjection by law and a life of true liberty—a life bound to right living by moral rules and regulations, and a life of uprightness made so because the individual freely, gladly chooses to do right. Christ said, "Among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Why? Because up to John's time all the best of men had been regulated in their lives by the moral law. By striving to meet its requirements and obey its precepts, the sages and prophets had been rising higher and higher toward the liberty by which Christ sets men free—the new life in which men gladly do right from choice—and John had come the nearest to this of all. However great as were his attainments in this direction; the least one in the new spiritual kingdom which Christ came to set up was greater than he. That is, he who received from Christ the new life, the spiritual regeneration, the life which makes it a joy to love God and keep his commandments, has attained to a higher degree of spirituality than it is possible for any one to attain by simply observing the precepts of the moral law. The latter is slavery and fear; the former is liberty and joy. "The law of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

The Prayer-Meeting

Christian Advocate

Henry Ward Beecher in his best days spoke of the prayer-meeting as the watch fire of the army of the Lord. The life long influence of communion with God and his people is well illustrated by a fact recently communicated to us. A veteran of the Civil War, who was in Detroit, Mich., soon after being mustered out, and served there as recorder of a courtmartial which was sitting in that place for two weeks, found a morning

prayer-meeting at eight o'clock, in the old Woodward Avenue Methodist Church. As he passed that meeting on his way from his boarding-place to the court room, he attended it. The inspiration that that half hour gave to the work of the day has remained with him thru the many years that have elapsed. More than that, it gave a distinct tendency to his life; so "during a long business career he has made it a rule to attend the midweek prayer-meeting and has found it a bulwark against the overweight of care. It is a safe and refreshing let-up in the midst of six working days and the spiritual energy and growth engendered by due preparation for such a meeting is a recompense out of all proportion to the time and strength involved."

In our multitudinous correspondence a better statement of the benefits of the prayer-meeting has seldom been made. The spiritual energy and growth engendered by due preparation is the emphatic statement in this extract. Prayer meetings are dull to persons who rush from business or from rest to the house of God. Fifteen minutes of secret pray and meditation; ten minutes, five even, if it be fully concentrated, on the part of those who attend prayer-meeting, would make such a difference that every one would be astonished, and none more than the pastor; the room would soon be filled to its utmost capacity, and almost before the church was aware of it, it would be in the midst of a revival.

A Cup of Cold Water

Christian Advocate.

The smallest service rendered in the right spirit cannot be in vain. The cup of cold water represents the smallest service. Any service which all of us must render seems insignificant when compared with the march of mighty armies, the movement of mighty nations, and the great deeds of great men. This is one reason why the little things which so much need to be done are neglected. If we could be great statesmen and figure conspicuously in building governments and in national movements, if we could be great leaders of armies and command in battles which would go down into history, if we could be great poets and write epics to be read with admiration by thousands while we live and millions after we are gone, if we could be great painters and paint masterpieces of art to adorn national galleries and attract the gaze of lovers of art in centuries to come, if we could be millionaires and give money to build universities and endow hospitals, how gladly would we do these things. But since we can only give a cup of cold water we are not willing even to do that.

So far as this is true of us it shows that we have not the right idea of life nor the right spirit. We are living to attract the attention of men and to secure the praise of men rather than of God. In His eye the least service bestowed with a good heart is great.